DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 122 186 CG 010 517

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TITLE Attitudes Toward Homosexuality and Social Distance.
PUB DATE [Sep 75]
NOTE 5p.; Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (83rd, Chicago, Illinois, August 30 to September 2, 1975)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Analysis of Variance; *Attitudes; Bias; College Students; Fear; *Homosexuality; Interviews; Research Projects; *Sex Differences; *Social Discrimination; Social Influences; *Social Isolation; Speeches

ABSTRACT

Chair placement was used to determine the effect on social distance created by a person being perceived as homosexual in orientation. Eighty undergraduates subjects, 40 male and 40 female, were interviewed for 10 minutes by either a male or a female experimenter who orally administered a specifically designed Attitude Towards Homosexuality Scale. In the treatment condition, the experimenter wore a "gay and proud" button and was introduced as working for the Association of Gay Psychologists; in the control condition the same experimenter wore no button and was introduced as a graduate student working on a thesis. A 2x2x2 completely randomized design was used with button-no button, sex of experimenter, and sex of subject as the three factors. An analysis of variance indicated significantly greater social distance when the experimenter was perceived to be homosexual in orientation. A significant three-factor interaction effect was also found ($p<.001$). The greater distance result was almost entirely a function of same sex pairings rather than different sex pairings of experimenter and subject. Male subjects reacted with greater social distance in interaction with a male experimenter perceived to be homosexual than did female subjects in interaction with a female experimenter perceived to be homosexual. Results are discussed in terms of Weinberg's theory of homophobia. (Author)

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ED122186

ATTITUDES TOWARD HOMOSEXUALITY AND SOCIAL DISTANCE

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Chair placement was used to determine the effect on social distance created by a person being perceived as homosexual in orientation. The interaction effects of sex of experimenter and sex of subject were also investigated.

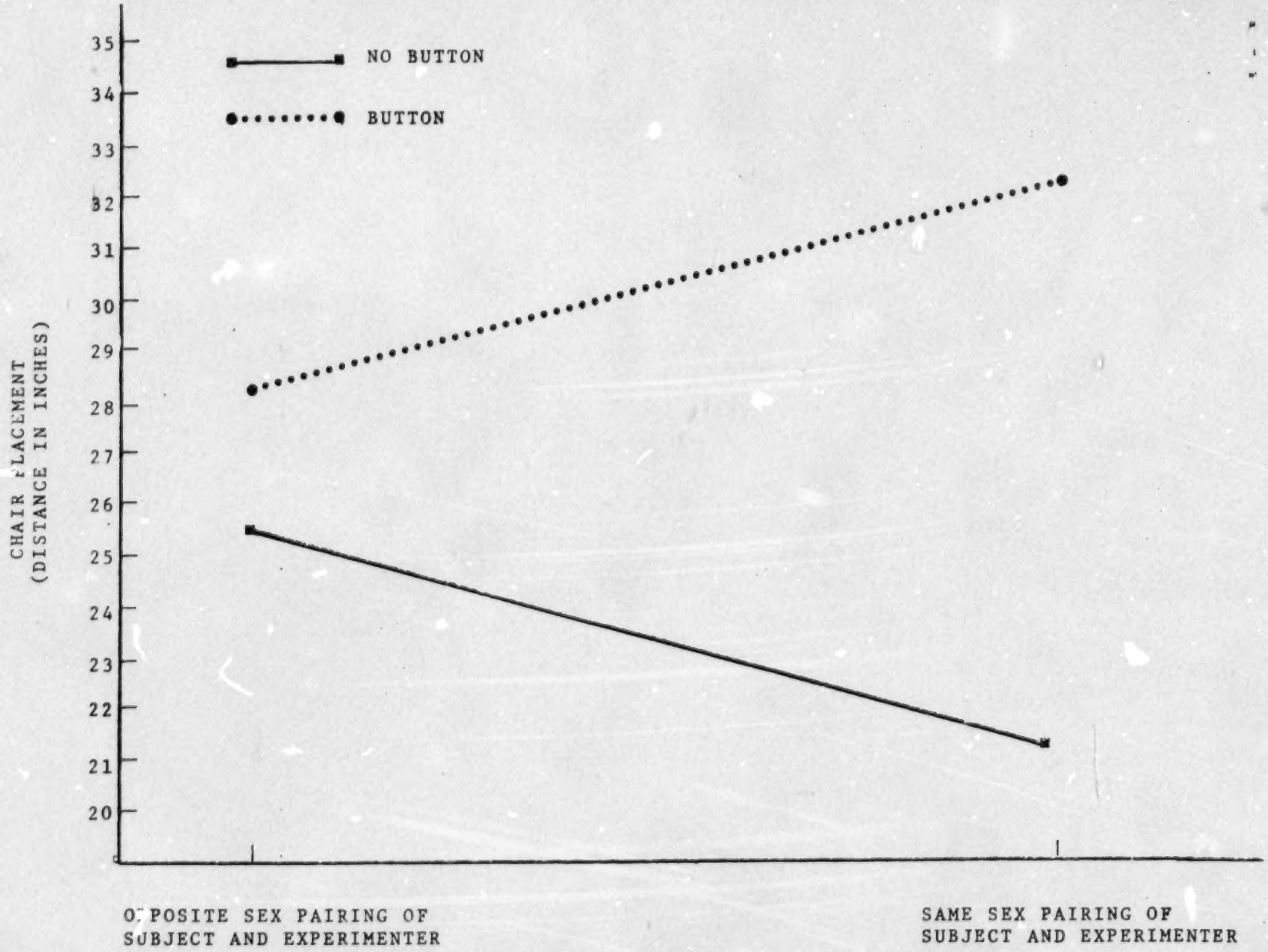
Eighty undergraduate subjects, 40 male and 40 female, were interviewed for 10 minutes by either a male or a female experimenter who orally administered a specifically designed Attitude Towards Homosexuality Scale. In the treatment condition, the experimenter wore a "gay and proud" button and was introduced as working for the Association of Gay Psychologists; in the control condition the same experimenter wore no button and was introduced as a graduate student working on a thesis. A 2x2x2 completely randomized design was used with button-no button, sex of experimenter, and sex of subject as the three factors. Social distance was measured by distance of chair placement in inches from experimenter.

An analysis of variance indicated significantly greater soical distance when the experimenter was perceived to be homosexual in orientation. A significant three-factor interaction effect was also found ($p<.001$). The greater distance result was almost entirely a function of same sex pairings rather than

different sex pairings of experimenter and subject. Male subjects reacted with greater social distance in interaction with a male experimenter perceived to be homosexual than did female subjects in interaction with a female experimenter perceived to be homosexual. An analysis of variance on the Attitude Towards Homosexuality Scale scores showed a tendency to give more prohomosexual responses under the button condition, although these differences failed to reach statistical significance.

Results are discussed in terms of Weinberg's theory of homophobia, the irrational fear of being in close proximity to homosexually oriented persons. The problems of the gay person dealing with with homophobic attitudes paricularly in therapists are considered. Means of changing homophobic attitudes and controlling social situations are suggested.

Paper read at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1975.


NO BUTTON
BUTTON
CHAIR PLACEMENT
(DISTANCE IN INCHES)
35
34
33
32
31
30
29
28
27
26
25
24
23
22
21
20
OPPOSITE SEX PAIRING OF
SUBJECT AND EXPERIMENTER
SAME SEX PAIRING OF
SUBJECT AND EXPERIMENTER

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE SUMMARY TABLE

Source	SS	MS		F
1. A (Button)	918.013	918.013	(1/26)	30.117288**
2. A at B_1	668.306	668.308	(2/26)	21.925141**
3. A at B_2	288.907	228.907	(3/26)	9.4781833**
4. A at C_1	261.121	261.121	(4/26)	8.5666069**
5. A at C_2	766.336	766.336	(5/26)	25.141215**
6. B (Sex of E)	1264.049	1264.049	(6/26)	41.469705**
7. B at A_1	874.224	874.224	(7/26)	28.680701**
8. B at A_2	429.025	429.025	(8/26)	14.07504**
9. B at C_1	617.797	617.797	(9/26)	20.26809**
10. B at C_2	646.416	646.416	(10/26)	21.206995**
11. C (Sex of S)	74.883	74.883	(11/26)	2.4566895
12. C at A_1	.728	.728	(12/26)	.0238835
13. C at A_2	129.599	129.599	(13/26)	4.2517595
14. C at B_1	34.040	34.040	(14/26)	1.1167516
15. C at B_2	41.007	41.007	(15/26)	1.3453182
16. AB	39.3	39.3	(16/26)	1.2893166
17. AB at C_1	303.601	303.601	(17/26)	9.96025**
18. AB at C_2	19.422	19.422	(18/26)	.6371783
19. BC	00.1640	00.1640	(19/26)	.0053803
20. BC at A_1	160.877	160.877	(20/26)	5.277898*
21. BC at A_2	176.401	176.401	(21/26)	5.7871945*
22. AC	54.814	54.814	(22/26)	1.798285
23. AC at B_1	59.781	59.781	(23/26)	1.9612376
24. AC at B_2	333.506	333.506	(24/26)	10.941341**
25. ABC	338.374	338.374	(25/26)	11.101059**
26. W. Cell	2194.651	30.481263		
27. Total	4884.283	npqr-1=79		

*p<.05 = 3.988

**p<.01 = 7.037